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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON POLICY FOR ASSESSING FEES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as required by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486), is seeking public comments on the need for changes to the existing policy for assessing fees and on recommendations the agency might make to Congress for changes in existing law to prevent placing an unfair burden on NRC licensees.

Under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, the NRC is required to assess fees in an amount that will recover approximately 100 percent of its budget for fiscal years 1991 through 1995. This is done under a system of fees for specific services for specific applicants and licensees (Part 170 of the Commission's regulations) and annual fees (Part 171 of the Commission's regulations).

During the two years that the 100 percent recovery requirement has been in effect, both NRC licensees and members of Congress have expressed significant concerns about them. These concerns have led the Commission to specifically request comments in certain areas.

The Federal Register notice includes specific options, alternatives and questions designed to focus comments received from members of the public and to facilitate the analysis and evaluation by the NRC staff of the public comments. It also includes, for public comment, a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM-170-4) filed with the NRC by the American Mining Congress on February 4, 1993, which addresses the same subject as the Energy Policy Act fee requirement.

Written comments on the Commission's fee policy and possible changes to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act should be received by July 19, 1993. They should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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